(x) In the choice of international events, the objective should be to keep the people informed of world developments.

The guidelines referred to above have been accepted by the Government and communicated to All India Radio and Doordarshan. These guidelines are followed by the Media scrupulously in production and presentation of news bulletins and current affairs programmes.

Sponsord TV serials

*275. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is likely to announce the opening of Sponsored TV serials from various registered producers; and

(b) if so, by when such an announcement is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Presently Doordarshan is in the process of informing all those persons/firms who have been selected for registration with Doordarshan as producers/Directors. Doordarshan would soon start inviting the producers/directors to submit proposals for sponsored programmes on those subjects which are required as per programmee needed. All the empannelled persons would not be simultaneously required to send proposals on their own.

Suggestions for policy changes in Comprehensive Crops Insurance Scheme

*276. KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date, when Government had received the report of the Group which had suggested policy changes in the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme, after conducting an indepth and critical review of the functioning of the Scheme;

(b) what are the suggestions of the Group as regards to (i) covering of every single agricultural crop; (ii) covering of every single farmer who is poor/marginal; and (iii) covering of farming even in a remote and distant place; and

(c) what is Government's response to each suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The Government had received the Report of the Group constituted to conduct an indepth and critical review on the functioning of Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) on 12th August, 1988.

(b) and (c) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is applicable to farmers availing crop loans from cooperative credit institutions, commercial banks and the Regional Rural Banks for growing Wheat, Paddy, Millets, Oilseeds and Pulses crops in any area of a State which has been notified for an insured crop during a season under the scheme. The Group constituted by the Government to conduct an indepth and critical review of the functioning of CCIS has made the following suggestions for enhancing the coverage of areas, crops and farmers:

(i) *Covering every single Agricultural Crop.*—The scheme should continue to cover only the crops presently included under the scheme i.e. Wheat, Paddy, Millets, Oilseeds and Pulses, for the time being. However, in case any of the implementing States so desire, they may run their own scheme for additional crops such as Sugarcane, Cotton, Potato etc. Appropriate technical assistance and reinsurance coverage can be had from the Government of India.

(ii) *Covering every poor/Marginal Farmer.*—The Group has recommended that the crop insurance should be con-